

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, March 21, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

Appointments

Nursing and Rest Home Community Advisory Committee	800	03/21/05
Catawba County Board of Adjustment	800	03/21/05

County Code

Personnel – Holidays	801	03/21/05
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General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Public Hearing	799	03/21/05
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Grants

Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant	800	03/21/05
Criminal Justice Partnership Grant	800	03/21/05
Help America Vote Grant	800	03/21/05
EMPG Supplemental Grant Award	800	03/21/05
Duke Power McGuire Allowance	804	03/21/05
Homeland Security Grant	804	03/21/05
Justice Assistance Grant	806	03/21/05

Newton-Conover Schools

Sale of ¼ acre of land	801	03/21/05
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Proclamations

American Red Cross Volunteer Al King	799	03/21/05
Sheriff's Deputy Michael Bumgarner	799	03/21/05
Sheriff's Deputy Donald Houston	799	03/21/05
EMS Employee Michael Howard	799	03/21/05

Public Hearing

General Obligation Refunding Bonds	799	03/21/05
Piedmont Wagon Transit	800	03/21/05

Rabies Clinic

Fee Increase	805	03/21/05
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Resolution

Installment Financing Agreement	801	03/21/05
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Sheriff's Department

Civil Process Fees	805	03/21/05
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Subcommittee

Cancellation of meeting	801	03/21/05
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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 21, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: N/A.

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Joellen J. Daley, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Barbara E. Morris.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that the Board had begun its meeting earlier in the afternoon with a work session in regards to the FORESIGHT recommendations on the environment and stated the Board of Commissioners was now back in session after the recess from that work session.
2. Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. The Invocation was offered by Commissioner Barger.
4. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of Monday, February 21, 2005 and the Special Session of Wednesday, March 2, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
Chair Barnes recognized the special guests who would be identified in the upcoming commendations and also welcomed Sheriff Huffman's attendance at the meeting.
6. Public Comment for items not on the agenda. None.
7. Presentations:
 - a. Commissioner Lail presented a distinguished public service award to American Red Cross volunteer Al King. This award recognized Mr. King as the recipient of the Dr. Harry M. Matthews Disaster Services Award from the North Carolina Disaster Committee of the American Red Cross. Mr. King said he looked forward to many more years of serving Catawba County. Chair Barnes said Mr. King had done tremendous service and when the national organization calls, his bags are packed and he responds.
 - b. Sheriff Huffman introduced Catawba County Sheriff Deputies Michael Bumgarner and Donald Houston and presented them with distinguished public service awards for their bravery and service in rescuing individuals from a burning home on February 16, 2005. Deputy Bumgarner said he thought any deputy in the County would do the same thing and didn't feel he was a hero but he was just doing his job. Deputy Houston thanked the Commissioners for the award and the opportunity to work for Catawba County.
 - c. Chair Barnes presented Catawba County Employee Michael Howard with a Certificate of Commendation for his service to his country as a combat medic in Iraq with the North Carolina National Guard from February 2004 to December 2004. Mr. Howard's wife and children were in attendance for this presentation and Mr. Howard recognized both Catawba County and Catawba County EMS as positive employers and said the County was the best place to work.
8. Public Hearings.
Proposed \$17,500,00 General Obligation Refunding Bonds
Chair Barnes asked that Rodney Miller, Finance Director, present information regarding the proposed refunding of general obligation bonds. Mr. Miller started his presentation with the statement that what a difference 30 days makes. He said when he came before the Board 30 days ago he had all hopes of refunding saving the County \$500,000 and he continues to hope that still comes to fruition but interest rates had changed and the savings that were going to be generated by the refunding were no longer possible. However, he recommended continuing with the public hearing. The plans are not to sell the refunding bonds until April

26, 2005 and hopefully in the next 30 days, the rates may soften. Mr. Miller said the good news was that the process the County had just gone through took approximately 90 days and if rates do come back in the right direction between now and seven years from now, the County is 60 days further in that process. He said he remained somewhat hopeful the rates will come back in the County's favor.

Chair Barnes stated this was the hour and the day that has been advertised for a public hearing regarding the order authorizing the \$17,500,000 in General Obligation Refunding Bonds and asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against this item. Hearing and seeing no one, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to authorize the bond order. The motion carried unanimously.

FY 2005-2006 Catawba County Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant

Mr. Eric Ben-Davies from Piedmont WagonTransit System stated he was present on behalf of Cynthia McGinnis, Transmit Manager, to present the grant application for approval for submission to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. This is an annual grant that is available from the North Carolina Department of Transportation which includes funds for the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program, the Work First Transitional/Employment Transportation Assistance Program and the Rural General Public Program. The allocation to the County is \$151,651.00 which is approximately 15% more than last year's allocation. Mr. Ben-Davies asked the Board to hold a public hearing regarding this application. Chair Barnes stated the public hearing had been advertised for the Rural Operating Assistance Program and asked for anyone wishing to speak. Hearing and seeing no one, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing and asked for a motion. Commissioner Barger asked if this was the first time the County had been a recipient of this grant and was told this was an annual grant and this year's grant was increased 15% over last year's funds. Chair Barnes noted that application had to be made each year. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the application and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointments:

Chair Barnes stated the following appointments came before the Board in the form of a motion:

Commissioner Lail recommended the appointment of Ms. Bari Cooper to a one year term on the Nursing and Rest Home Community Advisory Committee. Ms. Cooper will replace Betty McGee who recently resigned from the board.

Commissioner Beatty recommended Chris Timberlake for a first term on the Catawba County Board of Adjustment and he would be replacing Dennis L. Scronce.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda:

Chair Barnes noted the consent agenda was quite lengthy and County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said he would try to be brief. He said he would first like to officially recognize Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley who started March 1, 2005. Mr. Lundy said Mr. Worsley had come from Green County and Goldsboro and the County was glad to have him here.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy then said that the following six items came before the Board with recommendations from the Subcommittees:

a. Renewal of a Criminal Justice Partnership Grant.

It was recommended that the County reapply for a grant for \$112,401 that would be applied to work with substance abuse clients in structure services. This program would serve approximately 90-100 clients. This is a cooperative program between Mental Health and the Sheriff's Department.

b. Acceptance of \$25,539.00 Federal Grant from the Help America Vote Act. This Federal Grant is administered by the NC Board of Election. These funds would be used to purchase notebook computers, printers, a fax machine and a scanner, replacing aging equipment. The grant money cannot be used for the purchase or updating of voting equipment.

c. Supplemental Appropriation of EMPG Supplemental Grant Award in the amount of \$16,548.78 and Supplemental Appropriation for Duke Power McGuire Allowance in the amount of \$3500.00. The money

will be utilized as follows: \$8,000 for a web-based weather monitoring system; 42,000 for paying part-time wages to replace full-time emergency management staff during training, vacations, and sickness; \$6,548.78 for temporary wages to assist in final implementation of the County Emergency Operations Plan; and the \$3500.00 in McGuire funds to upgrade the Mobile Command Post wireless data infrastructure.

- d. Request from Newton-Conover Schools to sell a quarter acre lot adjacent to the Newton-Conover Middle School and by state law, if the school disposes of property, they have to offer it to the County. It's a small lot that the school is not maintaining and an adjacent business owner is interested in purchasing the property. Subcommittee suggests declining the offer to purchase the property. By state law Newton-Conover Schools will have to accept sealed bids and have an auction or upset bid process – County Manager Lundy said he thought they would utilize the upset bid process.
- e. Request to make a series of amendments to the Personnel Code to clarify the language regarding the holiday benefits. It does not confer any additional benefits.
- f. Recommendation to cancel the previously scheduled subcommittee meeting of June 27, 2005 which would normally be scheduled on July 4th which is a holiday.

Chair Barnes asked if there was any item that the Board wanted broken out of the consent agenda. There was no request to break out an item and Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Departmental Reports.

a. Finance:

Finance Director Rodney Miller presented a request that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an installment financing agreement, deed of trust and related documents in connection with the construction of an addition to the County's existing jail facility and the renovation of existing public school facilities. This is the second step of the process that was started at the last Board meeting. This resolution authorizes the signing and approval of these necessary documents. There is a difference from past transactions of this type in that the school buildings involved will not be used as collateral but the Justice Center and the new jail will be the collateral used for all three of the projects which are part of this financing agreement.

Mr. Miller said the bids for the jail project are scheduled to be turned in on March 24th and he is cautiously optimistic that the bids will be right on the money based on estimates.

The Local Government Commission will review and approve the County's application on April 5, 2005 and will close on the Certificates of Participation sometime in April.

Mr. Miller then asked the Board the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT, A DEED OF TRUST AND RELATED DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") for the County of Catawba, North Carolina (the "County") as follows:

Section 1. The Board does hereby find and determine as follows:

(a) There exists in the County a need to (a) construct an addition to the County's Justice Center to house additional jail cells and related facilities and (b) renovate and expand C. H. Tuttle Middle School and Maiden High School for the Catawba County Board of Education (collectively, the "Project").

(b) After due consideration, the Board has determined to enter into an Installment Financing Agreement (the "Agreement") with Catawba County Public Facilities Financing Corporation (the "Corporation") to provide for an advancement thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$22,325,000 to pay the costs of the

Project and to pay certain other costs associated with the financing.

(c) The Corporation will advance to the County amounts sufficient to pay the costs specified in subsection (b) of this Section, and the County will repay the advancement in installments, with interest (the "Installment Payments").

(d) In order to secure its obligations under the Agreement, the County will execute and deliver a Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust") granting a lien on the site of the County's Justice Center, together with all improvements and fixtures located or to be located thereon.

(e) In order to provide the amount of the advance, the Corporation will enter into a Trust Agreement (the "Trust Agreement") with Wachovia Bank, National Association, as trustee (the "Trustee"), pursuant to which the Corporation will execute and deliver certificates of participation (the "Certificates") evidencing proportionate and undivided interests in the right to receive the Installment Payments under the Agreement.

(f) In connection with the financing of the expansion and renovation of the middle and high schools constituting a portion of the Project, the County will enter into a Construction and Acquisition Agreement (the "Construction and Acquisition Agreement") with the Catawba County Board of Education.

(j) The Certificates will initially be sold to Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated and Scott & Stringfellow, Inc., trading as BB&T Capital Markets (the "Underwriters"), pursuant to the terms of the Contract of Purchase (the "Contract of Purchase") between the Corporation and the Underwriters, pursuant to which the County will be required to execute and deliver a Letter of Representation to the Underwriters (the "Letter of Representation").

(k) In connection with the offering and sale of the Certificates by the Underwriters, there will be prepared and distributed to potential purchasers a Preliminary Official Statement (the "Preliminary Official Statement") relating to the offering and sale of the Certificates and the Official Statement (hereinafter defined).

(l) There has been presented to the Board at this meeting drafts of the following documents:

- (1) the Agreement;
- (2) the Trust Agreement, together with the form of Certificates attached as Exhibit A thereto;
- (3) the Deed of Trust;
- (4) the Construction and Acquisition Agreement;
- (5) the Contract of Purchase, together with the Letter of Representation attached as Exhibit A thereto;
- and
- (6) the Preliminary Official Statement.

Section 2. In order to provide for the financing of the Project, the County is hereby authorized to enter into the Agreement and receive the Advancement pursuant thereto in a principal amount not to exceed \$22,325,000. In order to provide the funds for the Advancement to be made by the Corporation to the County, the Corporation is hereby requested to enter into the Agreement, the Trust Agreement and the Contract of Purchase and to execute and deliver the Certificates. The actual principal amount of the Advancement shall be determined by the County at the time of execution of the Letter of Representation, such execution and delivery of the Letter of Representation to constitute approval by the County of the principal amount of such Advancement as set forth in the Contract of Purchase and the approval by the County of the execution and delivery by the Corporation of the Certificates in the principal amount set forth in the Contract of Purchase. The amount of the Advancement shall be the amount that, in the best judgment of the person executing the Letter of Representation, shall be the amount necessary to provide sufficient funds, together with any other available funds, to pay (a) the costs of the Project and (b) the financing costs incurred in connection with the sale, execution and delivery of the Certificates. The rates of interest on the Installment Payments shall be determined by the County at the time of the execution by the County of the Letter of Representation, such rates to reflect the interest rates borne by the Certificates; provided, however, that such interest rates shall not result in a true interest cost in excess of 5.00% per annum, such execution and delivery

of the Letter of Representation to constitute approval by the County of the interest rates on the Installment Payments.

Section 4. The Certificates shall be sold to the Underwriters pursuant to the Contract of Purchase. The Certificates may be sold to the Underwriters at a discount below the amount of the principal amount of the Advancement, such discount not to exceed 98% of the principal amount of the Advancement; provided, however, that if all or any of the Certificates are to be sold to the public by the Underwriter at original issue discount (resulting in lower interest costs of the interest component of the Installment Payments), then the Certificates may be sold at a further discount in the amount necessary to cover such original issue discount. The final maturity of the Certificates shall not be later than December 1, 2025.

Section 5. The County Manager, the Finance Director and the County Attorney are hereby authorized to take such action as is necessary to obtain a policy of municipal bond insurance for the Certificates (the "Certificate Insurance Policy"). The premium for the Certificate Insurance Policy shall be paid from the proceeds of the Certificates. The Chairman of the Board, the County Manager, the Finance Director and the County Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any documentation necessary for the procurement of the Certificate Insurance Policy.

Section 6. The Board hereby approves the forms of the Agreement, the Deed of Trust, the Construction and Acquisition Agreement and the Letter of Representation in substantially the forms presented at this meeting. The Chairman of the Board, the County Manager and the Finance Director are each hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the County the Agreement, the Deed of Trust, Construction and Acquisition Agreement and the Letter of Representation in substantially the forms presented at this meeting, containing such insertions, deletions and filling in of blanks as the person executing such documents shall approve, such execution to be conclusive evidence of approval by the Board of any such changes. The Clerk to the Board or any assistant or deputy Clerk to the Board is hereby authorized to affix the official seal of the County to each of said documents and to attest the same to the extent required.

Section 7. The Board hereby approves the Trust Agreement, the Certificates and the Contract of Purchase in substantially the forms presented at this meeting.

Section 8. The Board hereby approves the Preliminary Official Statement in substantially the form presented at this meeting and hereby approves the distribution thereof by the Underwriters in connection with the offering and sale of the Certificates. Upon the sale of the Certificates to the Underwriters, a final Official Statement, to be dated as of the date of the Contract of Purchase (the "Official Statement"), will be prepared substantially in the form of the Preliminary Official Statement and will contain such information relating to the pricing terms of the Certificates and such additional information as may be necessary. The Board hereby approves the execution and delivery of the Official Statement on behalf of the County by the Chairman of the Board, the County Manager and the Finance Director and the distribution thereof by the Underwriters in connection with the offering and sale of the Certificates.

Section 9. The Board hereby specifically authorizes the above-mentioned documents to be supplemented and revised in any manner necessary or desirable to properly reflect the inclusion of any requirements of the provider of the Certificate Insurance Policy, the execution and delivery by the County of the Letter of Representation to be conclusive evidence of approval by the Board of any such changes.

Section 10. No deficiency judgment may be rendered against the County in any action for breach of any contractual obligation under the Agreement, and the taxing power of the County is not and may not be pledged directly or indirectly to secure any moneys due under the Agreement.

Section 11. The Chairman of the Board, the County Manager, the Finance Director and the County Attorney are hereby authorized to cooperate with the Underwriters in preparing and filing such filings under state securities or "blue sky" laws as the Underwriters may request; provided, however, that the County shall not be required to consent to the jurisdiction of any state in which it is not now subject unless the County Attorney shall determine that such consent is in the best interest of the County.

Section 12. The Chairman of the Board, the County Manager, the Finance Director, the County Attorney and the Clerk to the Board, and any other officers, agents and employees of the County are hereby authorized and directed to deliver such certificates, opinions and other items of evidence as shall be deemed necessary to consummate the transactions described above.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Commissioner Barger asked what the interest rate would be and Mr. Miller said it is hard to say but thinks it will be in the 4% range but that will be determined by the date the County sells. It is hoped that the blended rate, based on all the different years of investment and maturity dates, will be 4%.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to adopt this resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Emergency Services:

1. David Weldon, Emergency Services Director, presented the supplemental appropriation of County funds in the amount of \$281,882 to implement the Homeland Security FY 2004 Homeland Security Grant Program.

On October 28, 2004 Catawba County entered into a memorandum of agreement with the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to receive Homeland Security Funds. The guidelines for the use of the money were very specific, limiting what these funds could be expended on. Unlike the previous two grants, which allowed a listing of specific equipment, the Emergency Services Planning Committee had to create a list of qualifying projects that would total the grant allotment of \$281,882.00. The committee chose the following three projects as their top priority for Homeland Security Funds.

1. \$130,000 was allotted for interoperable radio communications. Not only is this a high priority for Homeland Security funding but a priority for Catawba County as spelled out in our Emergency Services Strategic Plan. The monies will be used to purchase 12.5 megahertz compliant radios that will meet the communications radio frequency committee minimum standards. By replacing these radios it will assure the County's response agencies have radios that will operate within the expanded radio system as well as comply with future FCC plans to cut the VHF bandwidth to 12.5 megahertz. The radios will be dispersed based on need as determined by the Emergency Services Planning Committee recommendation.

2. \$91,882 was also allotted for interoperable communications. These funds will be used to renovate a vehicle purchased with Homeland Security funds in 2003 as a joint venture with Public Health. Renovations will include interior and exterior changes with the majority of the funds to be used on technology upgrades.

The new Mobile Command Post will have Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) capabilities and will be outfitted with two eight-channel Command Star Console which will include two 800 megahertz radios, one low band VHF, four VHF, and one UHF radio. These upgrades will assure field interoperable communications and, if needed, can be used as in previous requests to back up our or other communication centers when they may not be functional.

3. \$60,000 was allocated for enhancements in security of critical government buildings. As a result of this funding a subcommittee of the county safety committee was created to address this issue. The committee will be setting priorities for expending this money. This plan includes additional security cameras, speakers to announce lock downs at county buildings as well as a badging system that would be used for door entry to government buildings.

Appropriations Increase

110-260060-985000 \$281,882
Other Equipment

Revenue

110-260060-631835 \$281,882
ES Dept of Justice Grant

Chair Barnes asked if the radios are able to be used in buildings. Mr. Weldon said it was a difficult question to answer. In some buildings they do work but some they do not. It depends on the makeup of the building.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to approve this appropriation. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Barnes then asked Mr. Weldon for a quick briefing on how the multi-jurisdictional disaster training went on March 5, 2005. Mr. Weldon said they were still waiting for the report from the Federal government. He said the success of any drill is measured by going into the drill and learning things you didn't know prior to the drill – based on that, he felt the drill was very much a success. Post 9-11, drills look at things that the County doesn't deal with everyday so the intent of the exercise was to identify issues to improve. It was the first time four counties worked that closely together. There was a very rapid response to a real event that happened during the exercise and it surprised most of the officials at the hospital where they responded with a bomb squad. Mr. Weldon said it was a good learning experience.

2. Fee Increase – Rabies Clinic Vaccination Fee

David Weldon, Emergency Services Director, presented the recommendation to increase the rabies vaccination fee from \$5 to \$7 during the annual rabies clinic sponsored by the County. The fee for vaccinations has been the same for ten years. The increase is to cover the cost of the clinics from a veterinary standpoint. The local vets hold these clinics and to encourage the continuation of this cooperation, the increase would at least cover the overhead and expense of the medication. This increase in fee is consistent with most of the other clinics in other counties. This money does not go to Catawba County but covers the cost of the vets who provide the service.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker recommended that the fees be looked at on a more frequent basis so the increases would not be so high in one increase. Commissioner Lail made a motion to adopt the increase in fees. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Budget: County Manager Lundy said Dr. Crawford was unable to be at the meeting and suggested that this item regarding the appropriation for Newton-Conover City Schools be tabled until the April 4, 2005 meeting when Dr. Crawford could attend.

c. Sheriff's Department:

- 1. Request for allocation of Civil Process Fees. Sheriff Huffman presented the following request: After more than 5 years of lobbying by the NC Sheriff's Association and NC Association of County Commissioners, the General Assembly raised the fee for service of civil process from \$5 per paper per person served to \$15, effective September 1, 2004. One of the requirements of the fee increase was that at least 50% of the fees collected be used to improve the timely service of civil process.

Sheriff's Office proposes to add an Administrative Support Specialist position to assist with the entry of Civil Process, answering phones, and assisting the public who visit the department effective May 1, 2005. One employee is currently responsible for processing an average of 14,000 papers per year. This person also serves as backup for the Receptionist. Most of the calls and visitors to the office on a daily basis have civil related needs that the front office staff must address. These responsibilities have become more than the existing staff can handle. The volume of work and frequent interruptions often leads to delays in assigning papers to officers, causing them to lose valuable time in trying to make service before scheduled court dates that are frequently within the same week in which the paper is received. The addition of this position would require funding of 2 months salary and benefits in this budget year. In addition, the purchase of a new paneled Reception Desk system to accommodate two people plus a computer necessary for data entry would be required. The total cost for this salary/benefits and equipment will be \$12,933.

The Sheriff's Office also proposes the addition of a Deputy position to attempt service of papers

after hours effective June 1, 2005. An additional officer was approved for Civil Process in the Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Budget. At that time the Division conducted a survey of 9 other local departments and found that Catawba County Officers were handling on average 37% more papers per officer than other counties. The addition of that officer, along with the one requested in this memorandum, would bring our officers in line with what officers in other counties are serving. This new officer would work a schedule from 3:00 – 11:00. The first two hours of the daily shift would be spent at the Hickory Court House making telephone service of civil process, serving civil process in person, and assisting with the security of the Hickory Court House. The remainder of the day would be spent attempting to serve other civil papers that officers have been unable to serve during normal day hours as well as Domestic Violence Orders and Civil No Contact Orders. The cost of salary and benefits for one-month plus the vehicle, mobile data terminal, office furniture and initial duty issued uniforms and equipment will be \$33,037.

Finally, the Sheriff's Office proposes to purchase services, equipment and office equipment/furniture to support the overall Civil Division. Lack of current and correct address information for defendants complicates the large volume of papers received on an annual basis by the Department. Searching for defendants consumes a lot of officer time with often little information to assist them. The Sheriff's Office proposes to purchase an annual subscription for the Entersect Police Online System that will allow Officers to run unlimited searches for addresses, phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and known associates which will save man hours. In addition to Civil Officers, Warrant Officers, Child Support Enforcement, Criminal Investigations, and Narcotics Officers could use the system to speed their investigative processes as well. The total annual cost for access to this system is \$8,000. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office proposes to purchase mobile data terminals for Civil Officers. These terminals would allow officers to obtain directions in route and also allow them to run tag numbers on vehicles at addresses to assist them in locating Defendants for service and property to be levied. The total cost of these terminals is \$22,000. Two members of the Civil Division already have MDT's and find them extremely useful. Other needs include a copier/printer, new chairs, a computer desk and digital phones for a total cost of \$4,250.

At the time the budget was completed the bill to increase the Civil Process fee to \$15 was expected to die in Committee but was instead approved. The Sheriff's Office has collected over \$104,000 in Civil Process fees this fiscal year and had only budgeted to receive \$65,000. It is projected that the Department will collect a minimum of \$155,000 by year-end, which is \$90,000 more than was originally budgeted. The Sheriff's Office requests that \$80,220 of these fees be appropriated to cover the above detailed costs. Continuing costs of the additional positions in Fiscal Year 2005/2006 and the Entersect Police Online System will be approximately \$95,000. The increased revenues that will be collected in 2005/2006 as a result of the fee increase will be more than enough to cover these ongoing costs.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION:

Revenues:

110-210050-670900	Sheriff Service of Process	\$80,220
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Expenses:

110-210050-812100	Regular Wages	\$6,750
110-210050-821100	FICA	\$516
110-210050-822100	Local Government Retirement	\$198
110-210050-822200	LEO Retirement	\$260
110-210050-823100	Group Health	\$1,587
110-210050-823300	Group Dental	\$67

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve this appropriation. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request for approval of a Justice Assistance Grant. Sheriff Huffman presented the following request:

The JAG Program is a formula-based grant that utilizes Uniform Crime Reporting statistics reported by all law enforcement agencies to determine eligibility for direct federal grant

awards. These funds can be spent on any purpose that benefits law enforcement. Catawba County and the City of Hickory are eligible to jointly receive a total of \$47,683 and are required to develop Memoranda of Understanding itemizing the proposed allocation and purpose of the awarded funds. One agency will serve as the lead agency in the grant application process and there is no associated match of funds required.

The Catawba County Sheriff's Office and Hickory Police Department have agreed to share the funds on a 50/50 basis, allocating each agency \$23,841.50, with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office serving as the lead agency on the grant.

The Sheriff's Office plans to use its grant funds as follows:

- Tasers: Funds will be used to purchase Tasers and Taser related supplies to provide officers with a non-lethal means of self-protection, controlling and/or subduing individuals. (\$9,590.50)
- Investigative Equipment – Funds will be used to purchase a Portable Forensic Workhorse to allow for duplication of computer hard drives in various crimes including identity theft, narcotics, white-collar crimes and child pornography. Currently hard-drives must be sent to the state for analysis, which can take a year or more. Funds will also be used to purchase an advanced digital camera specially designed for crime scene investigation. (\$11,500)
- Holographic Targeting Systems: Funds will be used to purchase holographic targeting systems and mounts for existing AR15 rifles to be used by the STAR Team for precision automated targeting of weapons. (\$2,761)

The Sheriff's Office proposed FY2005/06 budget for equipment/small tools has been reduced by the amount of these grant funds.

Hickory Police Department plans to use its grant funds as follows:

- Forensic Light Source – Funds will be used to purchase a specialized light used to identify fingerprint and blood samples at crime scenes.
- Radar – Funds will be used to purchase stationary and moving radar units for police cars.

Vice-Chair made a motion to approve this application and use of the grant funds. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Attorneys' Report. None.

13. Manager's Report. None.

13. Adjournment.

Being no other business to come before the Board, Vice-Chair Hunsucker moved to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes
Chair, Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk